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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **KIMURA, Masayuki, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Serial No.: **10,594,313**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **September 27, 2006**

For: **HINGE STRUCTURE AND HINGE STRUCTURE MEMBER**

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 29, 2007

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the PCT Notification of Transmittal of copies of translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (PCT Chapter II) attached herewith.

This Notification is submitted herewith to be placed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office file of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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MRQ/lrj
Atty. Docket No. **060717**
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PCT Notification of Transmittal of Copies of Translation
of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (PCT Chapter II).

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 58P0885WO131	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2005/005330	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.03.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.03.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01H21/00		
Applicant PIONEER CORPORATION		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 2 sheets, as follows:

☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/005330

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1, 2, 4-11 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 3 _____ received by this Authority on 27.01.2006
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 _____ received by this Authority on 27.01.2006
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-12 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 4, 5, 8 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/005330

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9

YES

Claims

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9

YES

Claims

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9

YES

Claims

NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1 to 3, 6, 7 and 9

The hinge structure wherein recesses are formed in the areas adjacent to the connecting parts in order to relieve the stress concentration that occurs at the connecting parts is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/005330

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The disclosure "fig. 11" in paragraph [0046] is incorrect, and should instead read "fig. 12."